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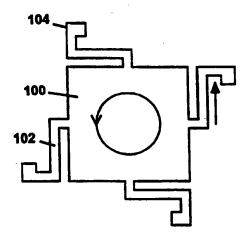


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| (72) Inventor; and<br>(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): MILES, Mark, W.<br>Suite 501, 354 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02<br>(US). |          |   |
| (74) Agent: FEIGENBAUM, David, L.; Fish & Richard 225 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110-2804 (U.)                                      |          | Z.,   |
|  |          |   |
| (54) Title: INTERFEROMETRIC MODULATION OF F  | 'ADIA    | TION  |

#### (57) Abstract

The invention features an interferometric modulator comprising a cavity defined by two walls. At least two arms connect the two walls to permit motion of the walls relative to each other. The two arms are configured and attached to a first one of the walls in a manner that enables mechanical stress in the first wall to be relieved by motion of the first wall essentially within the plane of the first wall.



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Internatic Application No PCT/US 99/07271

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| A. CLASSIF<br>IPC 6 | GO2B26/02   | ·                               |  |
| According to        | International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification                                    | on and IPC                      |  |
| B. FIELDS           |   |                                 |  |
| Minimum do          | cumentation searched (classification system followed by classification G02B B81C G09F                           | symbols)                        | _  |
|                     | ion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that su   |                                 |  |
| Electronic de       | ata base consulted during the international search (name of data base   | and, where practical, i         | search terms used)   |
| C. DOCUMI           | ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT  |                                 |  |
| Category *          | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the rele   | vant passages                   | Relevant to claim No.  |
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| A                   | page 33, line 20 -page 34, line 1<br>28   | .5; figure                      | 14   |
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| X Fur               | ther documents are listed in the continuation of box C.   | X Patent family                 | members are listed in annex.   |
| 1                   | atagories of cited documents :  nent defining the general state of the lart which is not                        | or priority date an             | alished after the international filing date<br>of not in conflict with the application but<br>not the principle or theory underlying the |
| oonsi               | idered to be of particular relevance document but published on or after the international                       | invention                       | ular relevance; the claimed invention  |
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| .O. doonu           | on or other special reason (as specified)<br>nent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or<br>rmeans | document is com                 | ered to involve an inventive step when the<br>bined with one or more other such doou-<br>bination being obvious to a person skilled      |
| *P* docum           | resent published prior to the international filing date but than the priority date claimed                      | in the art. "&" document member | of the same patent family  |
| Date of the         | actual completion of the international search   | Date of mailing of              | the international search report  |
|                     | 12 August 1999  |                                 | 1 0. 11. 1999  |
| Name and            | mailing address of the ISA  | Authorized officer              |  |
|                     | European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2<br>NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk   |                                 |  |
| 1                   | Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni,<br>Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016  | SCHEU,                          | М  |

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| Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No.   |
| ARATANI K ET AL: "PROCESS AND DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR SURFACE MICROMACHINED BEAMS FOR A TUNEABLE INTERFEROMETER ARRAY IN SILICON" PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP ON MICRO ELECTRO MECHANICAL SYSTEMS (ME, FORT LAUDERDALE, FEB. 7 - 10, 1993, no. WORKSHOP 6, 7 February 1993 (1993-02-07), pages 230-235, XP000366885 INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS ISBN: 0-7803-0957-X page 232 | 1-8,10,<br>11,15  |
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| EP 0 667 548 A (AT & T CORP) 16 August 1995 (1995-08-16) column 3, line 12 - line 35 column 4, line 54 -column 6, line 30; figure 2  | 1-7, 9-11,15  |
|  | CONSIDERATIONS FOR SURFACE MICROMACHINED BEAMS FOR A TUNEABLE INTERFEROMETER ARRAY IN SILICON" PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP ON MICRO ELECTRO MECHANICAL SYSTEMS (ME, FORT LAUDERDALE, FEB. 7 - 10, 1993, no. WORKSHOP 6, 7 February 1993 (1993-02-07), pages 230-235, XP000366885 INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS ISBN: 0-7803-0957-X page 232  GOOSSEN K W ET AL: "SILICON MODULATOR BASED ON MECHANICALLY-ACTIVE ANTI-REFLECTION LAYER WITH 1 MBIT/SEC CAPABILITY FOR FIBER-IN-THE-LOOP APPLICATIONS" IEEE PHOTONICS TECHNOLOGY LETTERS, vol. 6, no. 9, 1 September 1994 (1994-09-01), pages 1119-1121, XP000468079 ISSN: 1041-1135 the whole document  EP 0 667 548 A (AT & T CORP) 16 August 1995 (1995-08-16) column 3, line 12 - line 35 column 4, line 54 -column 6, line 30; |

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International application No. PCT/US 99/07271

| Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)   |
|---|
| This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:  |
| Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:   |
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| Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)   |
| This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:   |
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| 2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.   |
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| 4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:  1-15,23,24 |
| Remark on Protest  The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.   |

### FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1-15,23,24

An interferometric modulator comprising a cavity defined by two walls wherein the first wall is movable relative to the second wall and within the plane of the first wall

2. Claims: 16-18

Interferometric modulator comprising three walls and control circuitry for driving at least one of three walls

3. Claims: 19-20

an interference modulator comprising spacers mounted to form part of one of the walls

4. Claims: 21,22,25

Interference modulator comprising means to control the response time of the modulator  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left(  

5. Claim: 26

6. Claims: 27-32

An interferometric modulator, comprising walls and a support and at least one of the walls or the support comprising at least two materials

7. Claims: 33-38,44-48

A method of etching and patterning a microelectromechanical structure

8. Claims: 39-43

a method of making arrays of microelectromechanical structure on a production line

18.55

Inturmation on patent family members

| Interna' | al Application No |
|----------|-------------------|
| PCT/US   | 5 99/07271        |

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s)                                      | Publication<br>date                                  |
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